

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly rewrite Claims 1-10 as follows and add claims 11-14, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a target substance, comprising:

A) culturing a microorganism an *Escherichia coli* strain in a medium to produce and cause accumulation of a target substance in the medium; and

collecting the target said substance from said medium,

wherein the microorganism is constructed from a parent strain belonging to the genus *Escherichia* or *Coryneform* bacteria and having a respiratory chain pathway of high energy efficiency and a respiratory chain pathway of low energy efficiency as respiratory chain pathways, and

wherein the microorganism *Escherichia coli* strain has an ability to produce and accumulate the target substance in the medium and is a mutant strain or a genetic recombinant strain having either one or both of the following characteristics has been modified so to have a characteristic selected from the group consisting of:

(Ai) the enhanced activity of an enzyme of the respiratory chain pathway of high energy efficiency selected from the group consisting of SoxM type oxidase, *bc1* complex, cytochrome *bo*-type oxidase and NDH-1, is enhanced wherein said activity is enhanced by increasing a copy number of a gene coding for said enzyme or by modifying an expression regulatory sequence of said gene,

(Bii) the deficient activity of an enzyme of the respiratory chain pathway of low energy efficiency selected from the group consisting of cytochrome *bd* type oxidase and NDH-II, is deficient wherein said activity is made deficient by disrupting a gene coding for said enzyme, and

(iii) combinations thereof,

wherein the target substance is selected from the group consisting of an L-amino acid and a nucleic acid.

2 - 5. (Canceled).

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said ~~microorganism strain~~ comprises enhanced SoxM type oxidase cytochrome *bo*-type

oxidase activity and deficient NDH-II activity.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein ~~an enzyme of the respiratory chain pathway of high energy efficiency~~said enhanced activity is cytochrome ~~bc₁~~bo-type oxidase activity.

8 -10. (Canceled).

11. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein said deficient activity is NDH-II activity.

12. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein said target substance is L-lysine.

13. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein said target substance is L-threonine.

14. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein said target substance is L-phenylalanine.